control of the Plague Special Officer for work connected with plague preventive measures.

(*g*) The epidemic has almost subsided now. Except for one case of death from plague at Alleppey on the 4th Karkatakam 1111 and another on 3rd Karkatakam 1111 at Paravoor near Alleppey, there has been no case of human plague after the 11th Mithunam 1111. Stray cases of rat plague, however, continue to occur in a small area, *viz.*, the Puthenangadi and Mullakkal Wards of the town.

(*h*) The value of the thatched huts and sheds destroyed in connection with preventive measures has been estimated at Rs. 2,407. The question of the payment of compensation to the owners of the sheds and huts is under consideration.

Motor vehicle-tax in Municipalities.

165. *MR. M. K. JANARDANA KAMATH (*Commerce and Industry, North*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware of the fact that heavy arrears of motor vehicles-tax remain to be collected in almost all the Municipalities in Travancore;

(*b*) whether any Municipalities have drawn the attention of the Government to the several practical difficulties in realising the motor vehicles-tax;

(*c*) whether any Municipalities have suggested to the Government that the production of a certificate from Municipalities within whose limits the motor vehicles ply, that all taxes in respect of such vehicles have been paid should be made a condition precedent to the renewal of "G" permits of such vehicles;

(*d*) whether the Government have published, in the Gazette, a notification inviting objections, if any, to the carrying out of the proposal contained in part (*c*) above;

(*e*) whether the Government have taken further steps subsequent to the said notification in the Gazette;

(*f*) if the answer to part (*e*) is in the affirmative, what steps have been taken; and

(*g*) whether the Government are aware of the fact that, in the All-Travancore Municipal Conference, a resolution has been passed to the effect that the Government should take immediate steps to minimise the practical difficulties of the Municipalities in realising the motor vehicles-tax, and to facilitate collection of such tax?

RAO BAHADUR DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*), (*b*), (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*) Yes.

(*f*) The proposal is under reference to Municipal Councils.

(*g*) Yes.

Municipal Office, Padmanabhapuram.

166. *MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Municipal Office, Padmanabhapuram, is housed in a rented building or in a building of its own;

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